

**ABSTRACT**

A liquid crystal panel (441) modulates a light beam irradiated by a light source in accordance with image information, which includes a liquid crystal panel body (710) having a pair of transparent substrates (711A, 711B) between which electro-optic material is sealed, and a holding frame (720) of approximately C-shaped cross section having a base portion (721) provided with an opening (721A) corresponding to an image formation area of the liquid crystal panel (710) and a pair of lateral portions (722) vertically provided on opposing sides of the base portion (721), the holding frame (720) accommodating the liquid crystal panel body (710) therein.